

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05699 041751Z

67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-15 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 SS-15 AF-10

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5833

AEC GERMANTOWN 892

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EEC

SUBJ: URANIUM ENRICHMENT IN EUROPE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5572

1. SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH DIRECTORS GENERAL SPAAK AND GRIERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EC) HAVE PROVIDED SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING OF EUROPEAN UTILITY FIRMS TO DISCUSS URANIUM ENRICHMENT PURCHASES WHICH WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL. SPAAK CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING AS SIMPLY A MEETING OF EUROPEAN UTILITY FIRMS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COMMITMENTS FOR FUTURE ENRICHMENT CONTRACTS. HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN DETAIL OR TO COMMENT ON ANY FUTURE COMMISSION ROLE REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY.

2. GRIERSON WENT SOMEWHAT FURTHER, SAYING HE HAD BEEN TRYING FOR SOME TIME TO BRING TOGETHER THE COMPETING ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGIES

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 05699 041751Z

IN EUROPE. HE SAID HE FEELS THAT EUROPE SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN

ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY, BUT HE HAS OBSERVED THE INABILITY OF THE UTILITY CUSTOMERS TO DECIDE BETWEEN THE CENTRIFUGE AND DIFFUSION TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR RESULTING INABILITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR A EUROPEAN ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY. GRIERSON FEELS THAT EUROPEAN UTILITIES WILL EVENTUALLY SUPPORT A EUROPEAN ENRICHMENT CAPACITY, BUT IN THE INTERIM, THEY SEEM SATISFIED WITH THE ELIABLE USAEC SERVICE "IN SPITE OF THE RIGID TERMS." NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE USSR.

3. GRIERSON SAID HE FEARED THE COMMISSION'S EFFORTS WERE MISINTERPRETED BY SOME UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES AS AN ATTEMPT AT COMMISSION COERCION IN THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY SPHERE. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED IN "ENCOURAGEMENT" BUT CERTAINLY NOT "COERCION." GRIERSON THEN STATED THAT HE INTENDED TO MAKE NO FURTHER ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR A EUROPEAN ENRICHMENT CAPACITY. HE HAD IN FACT WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING "IN A HUFF" BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDE OF ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS-- NOT FOR "POLICY" REASONS. GREENWALD

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